

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SURABA 00012 110920Z
ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0012

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ID
SUBJECT: FURTHER STUDENT ACTIVITY IN SURABAYA

REF: JAKARTA 0180, (B) SURABAYA 0549, (C) SURABAYA 0608

1. SUMMARY. ON THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF JANUARY 10, THE STUDENT COUNCILS OF 13 OF SURABAYA'S CENTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION HELD AN OPEN-FORUM MEETING AT TWO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND CONDUCTED A PROCESSION BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPUSES. AT THE CONSLUSION OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES A DISTRUBANCE OCCURRED AFTER SECURITY FORCES ENTERED THE SURABAYA TEACHER'S COLLEGE (IKIP) CAMPUS AND IN THE FRACAS 6 STUDENTS WERE REPORTEDLY INJURED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL AND JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS, IN KEEPING WITH THE MONTHLY CYCLE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN SURABAYA--NOV. 10 (REF. B), DEC. 10 (REF. C)--ON JANUARY 10 AN OPEN FORUM MEETING WAS HELD AT THE LOCAL MOSLEM UNIVERSITY (IAIN-SUNAN AMPEL) TO COMMEMORATE THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRITURA DEMANDS. ORGANIZED BY 13 LOCAL COLLEGES AND OTHER CENTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (SOME VERY MINOR INDEED), THE MEETING WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, INVITED THROUGH 3000 WRITTEN INVITATIONS, TO ENUMCIATE THE "ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE". BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAINS, THE TURN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SURABA 00012 110920Z

OUT WAS DISAPPOINTING, PROMPTING THE STUDENT LEADEERS TO SUGGEST THAT THE MEETING BE RECONVENED AT THE IKIP CAMPUS, WHICH INVOLVED A MARCH OF 3 1/2 KILOMETERS ALONG THE BUSIEST THOROUGHFARE IN SURABAYA, THE MAIN, FOUR-LANE SURABAYA-MALANG ARTERY. DURING THE PROCESSION, THE STUDENTS WERE INTERCEPTED BY SECURITY FORCES, AND AFTER THEY WERE BLOCKED FROM FURTHER PROGRESS, THE STUDENTS SAT-DOWN ON THE HIGHWAY. (CONSULATE OFFICERS

OBSERVED AN ARMORED CAR AND A TRUCK FULL OF RIOT POLICE HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF IAIN AND IKIP AROUND 5 PM.) WHEN TRAFFIC BECAME COMPLETELY SNARLED IN THE AREA, STUDENTS WERE PERMITTED TO PROCEED, BUT WITH THE PROVISION THAT THEIR POSTERS BE ROLLED-UP. AFTER REACHING THE IKIP CAMPUS THE STUDENTS COMPLETED READINGS AND SPEECHES THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE IAIN CAMPUS MEETING. JUST WHEN THE MEETING WAS ABOUT TO DISBAND, A FULLY ARMED SECURITY TEAM ENTERED THE IKIP CAMPUS TO REQUEST THAT THE STUDENT QUICKLY DISPERSE. A FRACAS ENSUED. THE LOCAL NEWS-PAPER REPORT ONLY STATES THAT THERE WERE 6 STUDENT "VICTIMS." A USUALLY RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN AN EYEWITNESS TOLD US THAT HYSTERIA BROKE OUT AMONG STUDENTS WHEN SECURITY FORCES ENTERED THE CAMPUS. STUDENTS WERE SHOUTING AT THE TROOPS: "SHOOT US. SHOOT US." OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT 3 STUDENTS RECEIVED BAYONET WOUNDS--ONE HOSPITALIZED--AND 6 WERE DETAINED. ONE OF THE DETAINED WAS STUDENT LEADER HARUN AL-RASYID, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE MOST PROMINENT ACTIVIST DURING THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES AS HE WAS ON NOV. 10. AS OF JAN 11, THE 6 ARE STILL BEING HELD, ACCORDING TO OUR LOCAL SOURCE.

3. IN SPEECHES AT THE TWO MEETINGS FREQUENT REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1966 TRITURA STUDENT DEMANDS (THAT FORMER PRES. SUKARNO LOWER PRICES, CHANGE CABINET MINISTERS, AND ABOLISH THE PKI), THE ALL-INDONESIA STUDENT PLEDGE ISSUED IN BANDUNG ON 27 OCTOBER, AND THE ACTIVITIES OF JAKARTA STUDENTS LAST SATURDAY (REF A).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SURABA 00012 110920Z

4. A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CALLED THAT NIGHT BY STUDENT LEADERS. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY INTEND TO MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE COMMANDER OF SECURITY FOR JAVA AND MADURA (PANGKOWILHAN II) IN YOGYAKARTA, THE GOVERNOR OF EAST JAVA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, THE PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR, AND STUDENT COUNSELS THROUGHOUT INDONESIA. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROTEST IS TO BE THE STEPS BE TAKEN TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENTRY OF SECURITY FORCES INTO THE IKIP CAMPUS AND FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE SECURITY FORCES AGAINST STUDENTS WHO WERE COMMEMORATING THE EXPRESSION OF TRITURA.

5. COMMENT. THE PROCESSION BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPUSES WAS CLEARLY A LOCAL TEST OF RECENT MILITARY PROHIBITIONS AGAINST STREET DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE THE MPR SESSION IN MARCH. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE STUDENTS CHOSE TO HOLD THEIR MEETINGS, THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES OF EAST JAVA WERE CONDUCTING A LARGE EXERCISE (INVOLVING MOCK STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND A MOCK AIRLINE HIJACKING) IN OTHER AREAS OF THE CITY. AN UNUSUAL ELEMENT WAS THE SURABAYA'S LEADING UNIVERSITY--AIRLANGGA--SENT NO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORUM

AND WAS NOT LISTED AMONG THE SPONSORS. ITS HAS BEEN THE FOCAL
POINT OF ORGANIZED SUTDENT PROTEST OF LATE, BUT THE HIGH
PROFILE OF IAIN STUDENT LEADERS IN THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITY
IS UNUSUAL. THE MOSLEM STUDENTS AT IAIN ARE USUALLY NOT
INCLINED TO JOIN WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN JOINT
ACTIVITIES AND ARE GENERALLY RETICIENT ABOUT BEING INVOLVED
IN STUDENT POLITICAL PROTESTS. INTERESTINGLY, THE
STORY OF THE STUDENT MARCH AND MEETINGS WAS CARRIED LOCALLY TODAY
ONLY BY SUARA INDONESIA, THE MOST RECENTLY
ESTABLISHED BUT MOST POLITICALLY SENSITIVE OF SURABAYA'S THREE
LEADING DAILIES.
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